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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT



### THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has consented to act as president of the International Congress on Tuberculosis which is to convene in Washington on September 21st, and extend its sessions until October 12th. If he is unable to preside at the initial meeting, Secretary Cortelyou will take his place. In his letter of acceptance he says:

“The importance of the crusade against tuberculosis, in the interest of which this congress convenes, cannot be over-estimated when it is realized that tuberculosis costs our country two hundred thousand lives a year, and the entire world a million lives a year, besides constituting a most serious handicap to material progress, prosperity and happiness, and being an enormous expense to society, most often in those walks of life where the burden is least bearable.

“Science has demonstrated that this disease can be stamped out, but the rapidity and completeness with which this can be accomplished depend upon the promptness with which the new doctrines about tuberculosis can be inculcated into the minds of the people and engrafted upon our customs, habits and laws. The presence in our midst of representatives of world-wide workers in this magnificent cause gives an unusual opportunity for accelerating the educational part of the program.

“The modern crusade against tuberculosis brings hope and bright prospects of recovery to hundreds and thousands of victims of the disease, who under old teachings were abandoned to despair. The work of this congress will bring the results of the latest studies and investigations before the profession at large and place in the hands of our physicians all the newest and most approved methods of treating the disease—a

knowledge which will add many years of valuable life to our people and will thereby increase our public wealth and happiness.

“The International Congress on Tuberculosis is in the interest of universal peace. By joining in such a warfare against a common foe the peoples of the world are brought closer together and made to better realize the brotherhood of man; for a united interest against a common foe fosters universal friendship. Our country which is honored this year as the host of other nations in this great gathering of leaders and experts and as the custodian of the magnificent exhibit which will be set up by the entire world, should manifest its appreciation by giving the congress a setting worthy of the cause, of our guests, and of ourselves. We should endeavor to make it the greatest and the most fruitful congress which has yet been held, and I assure you of my interest and services to that end.”

Secretary Root is in charge of the committee to arrange for the congress, which is composed of six members, one each from the War, Navy, Treasury, Agriculture and Interior Departments and the Smithsonian Institution. Twenty-five thousand dollars have been appropriated for the expenses of the congress. The number of delegates may exceed 5000.

As has been previously announced in the JOURNAL, nurses are for the first time to have a recognized place in this congress, which is the sixth to be held, the others having been: Paris, 1898; Berlin, 1899; Naples, 1900; London, 1901; and Paris, 1905. When the congress was invited to Washington, Austria and Japan were competitors for it, and Japan was so anxious to secure its presence that there were rumors that it was willing to send ships to bring the European delegates to its shores.

It is expected that the congress in Washington will be even more gigantic than those in London and Paris. There will be a number of sections, all sitting simultaneously. The papers and discussions will be printed in four languages, and there will be special lectures outside the congress by prominent men from all parts of the world. The exhibits will be a great feature and will contain models and plans of institutions, houses and work-shops, built in the interest of the crusade against tuberculosis. There will be charts showing the ravages of the disease and others showing the progress that has been made in the effort to stamp it out. There will be special excursion rates on the railroads to Washington at the time of the congress.

The fact, that the work of nurses is to be given prominence in this country is a tribute to nursing as a profession, and every woman engaged in the work should feel that she has something valuable to contribute.

Those who are unable to attend should enter into correspondence with Miss L. L. Dock, the acting secretary of the nurses' committee, whose address is Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, and ascertain in what way they can be of definite assistance in developing the nursing side of the congress.

#### PLACE OF MEETING

The Congress will be held in the new National Museum, a splendid building which has been for some time in course of erection in the grounds near the Smithsonian Institute. The building is admirably adapted to the purposes of the congress, being of enormous size, and providing several halls of varying capacities for the different sessions. The large hall holds 1000 people, others hold 500, while still smaller ones hold about 150 persons, thus permitting several sessions to be held at the same time. Dr. Fulton, the Secretary-General, who holds the most definite and entirely satisfactory views as to the usefulness of the nurse in the antituberculosis movement, is anxious to add to the program something in the way of demonstrations which might show the methods employed by the nurse in carrying out some of her various plans for prevention or care. The nurses' session will probably be held on Thursday, October 1st, at 10 A.M.

#### THE COMMITTEE ON EXHIBITS

The General Committee on Exhibition, of which Dr. Henry G. Beyer is chairman, has appointed the following additional members to look especially after the exhibits of nurses: Miss Isabel L. Strong, superintendent of visiting nurses, Washington, Miss Eugenia Bray, of the same city, and Miss Ellen La Motte, visiting nurse for tuberculosis, Baltimore, Md. As has been stated before, it is expected that each state exhibit will include, as far as possible, suitable representations of the work which nurses are doing, and a request to this effect has been made of the chairman of each state committee. In certain instances the field of the nurse is included in that of some other exhibit, as, for instance, in dispensaries, where visiting the families and instructing them is the work of the nurse, yet would naturally and properly be shown under Dispensary Methods. But beyond this there is a good deal to be shown by visiting nurses' associations, by individual nurses working under various agencies, and also possibly by nurses in sanatoria. As these exhibits are for the purpose of educating, first, the nurse, and second, the public, anything really good and instructive in the way of charts, maps, records, photographs, models, appliances, and so on should find a place, which the chairman of each state committee will doubtless be glad to provide.

*All further communications on the subject of the exhibit should be addressed to Miss Isabel L. Strong, 2001 I Street, N. W., Washington.* It is expected that the completed exhibits will be in Washington ready to be set up not later than September 1st, but Miss Strong desires to have now as full information as possible from nurses in various states, as to any share which they are taking, or would like to take in her exhibit.

#### IN REGARD TO PRIZES

In the department of Visiting Nursing in a recent issue of the JOURNAL was given a list of the prizes offered by the International Congress on Tuberculosis. A correspondent sends us a corrected statement of the description of the prize offered under heading number 3, as follows: Number 3 read, a cash prize, etc., for the best exhibit of a furnished room for the poor in the interest of the crusade against tuberculosis. It should read as follows:

No. 3. A prize of \$1000 is offered for the best exhibit of a furnished house, for a *family* or group of *families*, of the working class, designed in the interest of the crusade against tuberculosis.

A model of house and furnishing is required, with drawings, specifications, estimates, etc. The prize is designed to stimulate toward securing a maximum of sunlight, ventilation, proper heating and general sanitary arrangements for an inexpensive home.

#### LEGISLATION IN NEW YORK STATE

The New York bill, which became a law on May 17th, requires the reporting of cases of tuberculosis to the local health officers, and provides definite methods for the supervision of the tuberculosis patients within the state. In this statute definite lines of procedure are laid down for members of the medical profession treating such cases, and for the health officers, which, if enforced, will make the work of the charity organizations and educational bodies which have been handicapped by the lack of proper regulations, definitely effective.

The public interest is being aroused so rapidly that it seems almost to outstrip that of the medical profession which, in many places, with the exception of small groups of men, seems to be almost apathetic.

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#### ASSOCIATED ALUMNÆ MEETING

THIS number of the JOURNAL contains the authorized proceedings of the Associated Alumnæ at San Francisco, with lists of officers, commit-

tees, and associations, and a little account of the going journey taken by the eastern delegates. We have placed the proceedings at the end of the magazine that those of our readers who do not preserve their Journals may detach it for reference if so desired.

Two important actions were taken by the association this year. First, it was decided to admit county and city associations on the same basis as states. This will give better representation to many nurses, especially in the west, where hundreds of nurses are living at long distances from their *alumnæ* associations, and where *alumnæ* associations are less numerous and less important than the local associations, composed of graduates of many different schools.

Second, the decision was made to immediately purchase enough shares of JOURNAL stock to give the Associated *Alumnæ* the majority of shares and the controlling vote. By this action the magazine passes into the control of our national association. The other stockholders, either individual or association, are in the minority. The Board of Directors of the Associated *Alumnæ* is to instruct its representative how to vote at the stockholders' meeting. This places the responsibility of the management of the JOURNAL really upon the shoulders of the directors, and back of them it rests upon all the associations comprising the national, and upon all the individual members of those associations.

Up to this time the JOURNAL's financial backing and its general business policy have rested upon a small group of members of the Associated *Alumnæ*, who have carried this as a trust for the national association.

In taking this responsibility, the Associated *Alumnæ* finds the JOURNAL prosperous, without debts, and, even under the strain of the financial depression of the last year, gaining slowly and steadily both in professional influence and in the number of its subscribers.

JOURNAL ownership is the goal which the association has had before it for eight years. Its future welfare depends upon the loyalty and interest of its 14,000 members for their own official organ.

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#### ANOTHER SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE HOSPITAL ECONOMICS COURSE

THE trustees of the Johns Hopkins Hospital are this year awarding a scholarship of \$480 to a graduate who desires to take the Hospital Economics Course at Teachers' College, the nurse to receive it being Miss Harriet Baily, of Bangor, Maine.

This scholarship has heretofore been awarded to a nurse who

wished to take special post-graduate work in the hospital, but by this change the recipient is able to avail herself of a broader range of study.

We hope this example of the Johns Hopkins Hospital trustees will be followed by the managers of other schools. The hospitals are so directly benefited by the services of these specially trained women that it seems only fitting that some of the expense should be met from the funds of the institutions. It is a matter that every superintendent should bring to the attention of her board, and graduates who have shown marked executive and teaching ability should have it made possible for them to take the course. While the names of Miss Ross and Miss Nutting are not mentioned in this connection, they may have been instrumental in bringing about the generous action of the trustees.

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#### NURSES FOR THE NAVY

THE navy bill, providing for a corps of nurses in the naval service, has become a law and the bureau is organizing and formulating its rules which will soon go into effect. Several applications have been received for the superintendency and for chief nurses' positions. An experienced superintendent who has seen service in organization work in Cuba and Panama is prominently spoken of for the position of superintendent. The bill provides that the superintendent receive \$1800 per annum.

The chief nurses and nurses receive the same pay and emoluments as those in the army.

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#### A NEW ALUMNÆ MAGAZINE

THE Alumnæ Association of the New York City Training School for Nurses published in May the first copy of its Alumnæ Journal. It appears in a dark blue cover, lettered in gold, and is to be issued three times a year. It is edited by a publication committee of six, Miss Elizabeth Gregg being editor-in-chief, and is full of items which will be of interest to the members of the association, including minutes of the four meetings which had been held since the first of the year, giving absent members an opportunity to know the work that is being done. The only omission we note is that of the address of the corresponding secretary of the association.

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#### AFFAIRS IN PENNSYLVANIA

"THE Pennsylvania State Committee on Nursing" is again working vigorously to frustrate the efforts of the nurses of the state to obtain

registration and is planning to establish not only a state but a national board of regents to control the registration of nurses.

It is pleasant to see, in the report of the Pennsylvania nurses' state meeting on another page, that the state medical society promises its support to the nurses in their efforts to secure legislation along the lines which are proving so satisfactory and successful in other states. "When doctors disagree"—?

#### IN MINNESOTA

AN interesting account comes to us from Minnesota as to how the nurses there decided to draw lots for the place of meeting for the Associated Alumnae next year, and how a St. Paul nurse drew the lot which gave the convention to Minneapolis.

The second nursing issue of *The Courant* has come to hand, and is even more interesting than the first was.

#### IN MASSACHUSETTS

THE Massachusetts bill for state registration has been defeated. It was reported favorably to the House and passed that body successfully but was defeated in the Senate, mainly by the treachery of a physician who had always seemed a good friend.

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#### A TEXT-BOOK ON HYGIENE

MISS McISAAC'S new text-book on hygiene will be published by the MacMillan Company, and it is expected that it will be ready in July, in plenty of time for teachers of nurses to become familiar with it before fall work begins. We are hearing especially from superintendents of small schools, the most unqualified appreciation of her *Primer of Nursing Technique*, the first volume of her series of text-books, of which this is the second.

